

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4, 1862.

HEALTH OF GEN. McCLINTOCK.

Gen. McClintock is better to-day than he was yesterday. He sat up nearly all the forenoon. The fever has left him, and he is now recovering his strength.

IMPORTANT LETTER FROM SECRETARY CHASE—THE

DUTIES ON TEA, COFFEE AND SUGAR.

The following letter has been addressed to Hon. W. P. Fessenden, Chairman of the Committee on Commerce of the Senate, and Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House—

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Jan. 3, 1862.

Sir—The act of Congress passed on the 26th of December, 1861, directing that from and after the date of its passage certain duties, in lieu of duties before imposed, should be levied, collected and paid on tea, coffee and sugar, imported from foreign countries, did not exempt from its operation tea, coffee and sugar imported and warehoused, and was therefore regarded by me as a direction to collect the duties prescribed on all such importations, under the said act, and instructions were issued to the collector, accordingly.

I beg leave to direct your attention to the fact that where goods imported have been placed in warehouses under the law and departmental regulations the amount of duties has in each case been estimated, though not levied, by the naval officer, and a bond has been taken by the collector, in doubt of the amount of the duties thus estimated, for their payment, and there is a general opinion among merchants that the faith of the government is engaged in the delivery of such goods to the merchants on payment of the duties imposed by law at the time of the warehousing. Whether this opinion is absolutely well founded or not, there is certainly something in the nature of the transaction which supports it. It is my duty, doubtless, to execute the law as it is written out.

I beg leave, in view of the opinion of the importing merchants, respectfully to suggest the propriety of the adoption of a joint resolution directing the Secretary of the Treasury to permit warehoused goods to be withdrawn on payment of the duties imposed by the act of August 2, 1861, and to refund any excess of duties above those thus imposed which may have been collected on goods already warehoused.

S. S. CLARK, Secretary of the Treasury.

REPORTED TREASON IN THE HOUSEHOLDS OF OFFICIALS.

Facts are fast developing themselves which show that, while we have been employing the money and energy of the loyal people of the United States to repulse the arrogant horde of rebels who have arrayed themselves in battle against the government within sight of the Capitol, treason was being hatched in the very households of officials. Our streets are filled with the most painful rumors of the discovery of traitors in a place where the breath of suspicion should not rest. This discovery also casts a gloom upon the minds of the people.

The recent case is a serious one, and it is allowed to pass without a public exposure and a public execution. In both of these instances alluded to woman figures as the chief offender.

GENERAL BURNIDE'S EXPEDITION.

The vessels of General Burnside's fleet were inspected to-day by General Porter and Colonel Sackett, by order of General McClellan. They report the accommodations ample, and arrangements excellent for the transportation of our troops in the fleet. General Burnside's men were paid off yesterday and to-day. Seven hundred thousand dollars was disbursed, three fourths of which was sent home to the soldiers' families.

THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW ENGLAND.

The creation of a military department, some time since, to consist of the New England States, and the appointment of General Butler to command it, made quite a sensation in some of those States, and especially in Massachusetts, and more especially in Boston—"the hub of the universe." When this new department was created, it was done for a patriotic purpose, the details of which I am not at liberty to mention. They are not even known to Governor Andrew yet, who would do very well as the war Governor of Massachusetts, if it was not for his private secretary, the imitative Colonel, who rejoices in the cognomen of Lieutenant Colonel, but who, unfortunately for the country, never yet burned any other weapon than a brick, during the so-called "Barnes Riot."

General Butler took charge of the department, and had soon too much real service in the enemy's country, and was too much of a gentleman, to allow himself to be impudently interfered with by a subordinate officer of the army even, much less by Governor Andrew's messenger. The result was that General Butler was resisted in his attempt to raise the man for his expedition. Messrs. Brown, representing Governor Andrew, refused to commission the officers elected by General Butler's new regiment. Governor Andrew sustained his messenger and refused also. Butler appealed to the President, and the latter assured General Butler that he should be sustained, regretting at the same time that there should be any conflict between the federal government and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. General Butler, having his orders from the President of the United States, did not hesitate to proceed with the organization of his expedition, leaving Governor Andrew to fight out the matter with the federal government. To-day an order has been issued for all the regiments now in New England, and that have not yet reported for duty, to do so to General Butler, at Boston, who is required to report their inspection forthwith. This will produce a new complication between Governor Andrew and the federal government. Already the Governor has forwarded several elaborate communications to the Senators and some of the representatives from Massachusetts, protesting against Gen. Butler's mode of doing business and appealing to the federal government to interfere. The quarrel, in which Gen. Butler takes no part, is still pending. While on the subject of Gov. Andrew, I am reminded that his Excellency, who severely reprimanded Gen. Stone not only for coming to Boston, but for coming to the city, and for coming to the city, has received a letter, according to report from Gen. Stone, which some of the friends of the latter have asked the Governor to publish; but thus far Gov. Andrew has declined. The whole affair is very rich, and will soon be made public, although an effort is now making to hush the matter up.

PRESENTATION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA

REGIMENTS.

The usual State colors to be presented to the Pennsylvania regiments forming General Jameson's brigade were presented yesterday afternoon, at the parade ground beyond Alexandria. There for the Sixty-third regiment, Colonel Hays and the One hundred and Fifty-third, Colonel McKnight, were presented by the Hon. James A. McKnight, member of Congress from the Pittsburg district. Colonel McKnight, in a handsome speech, received the colors on behalf of his regiment, and Captain Reed on behalf of the Sixty-third. Those for the Sixty-first regiment, Colonel Ripley, and the Ninety-ninth, Col. Sweeney, were presented by the Hon. H. B. Wright, member of Congress from Pennsylvania. The Hon. Calhoun A. Grew, Speaker of the House of Representatives, presented a State flag to the Eighty-eighth Pennsylvania regiment. Col. McLean, which has been stationed in Alexandria for some time past. At noon there was a regimental parade through the streets of Alexandria, and at one o'clock the ceremony attending the presentation took place at the headquarters, corner of Prince and Royal streets. After Mr. Grew's address, speeches were made by Colonel George P. McLean, Lieutenant Colonel J. A. McKnight, Assistant Adjutant General Fries and others. The regiment was then reviewed by Generals Heintzelman and Montgomery, after which the guests partook of a sumptuous repast at the headquarters.

THE REMOVAL OF MARION AND SIDELL.

The agent of the government who superintended the removal of Messrs. Mason and Sidell from Fort Warren to the British gunboat *Minerva*, returned this morning. No papers were exchanged between the agent and the English commander, in connection with the delivery and reception of the rebel prisoners.

ARRIVAL OF AN ALLIED BRIGADIER.

Corporal Lundy of the First Pennsylvania regiment, was to-day arrested at the instance of Capt. Clive, of Gen. McKnight's staff, and placed in irons, to await charges of desertion and disloyalty. He has been employed in the division battery. On New Year's day he went away without leave, married the daughter of a secessionist living at Langley, and thereafter not only refused to further work, but expressed a determination, at the first opportunity that offered, to go over to the enemy and fight on their side. His honeymoon was of short duration. The arresting officer found him at the house of his bride, hid between two feather beds. A court martial will be forthwith ordered, and if the charges preferred against him are proved he must inevitably be awarded the death penalty.

ARRIVAL OF VIRGINIA SECESSIONISTS.

Samuel Hirst and Robert Reed, his son-in-law, two well known secessionists of Fairfax county, were to-day brought to Capitol Hill Prison as prisoners, having been captured in General Smith's division. Hirst is a dispo-

rate character. He has been in the rebellion since the breaking out of the war, and still has a son and son-in-law in the rebel service. His wife and several children live near Langley, he worked his way inside our picket lines two weeks ago. He was trying to get outside the pickets when captured.

ATTACK ON GEN. HANCOCK'S PICKETS.

Five shots were fired last evening upon the pickets of Gen. Hancock's brigade. Fortunately none of them took effect. After the firing they beat a hasty retreat.

ALL QUIET ALONG THE LINES.

At ten o'clock to-night the telegraph announces to headquarters that the Army of the Potomac is all quiet, from right to left, and that, notwithstanding the weather is colder than we have yet experienced it this winter, the troops are comfortable.

GENERAL LANE ABOUT TAKING THE FIELD.

General Lane, of Kansas, is making preparations for the active campaign on which he will soon enter. The government has been prompt in giving directions for furnishing all the necessary supplies.

ENTERTAINMENT AT GENERAL SMITH'S HEAD-QUARTERS.

Colonel Friedman, of the Cameron Dragoons, gave an entertainment to-day at General Smith's headquarters. Generals Hancock and Brannan and their staffs and other leading officers of the division were present. A feature of the occasion was the presence of Mrs. Secretary Cameron and her two daughters.

ARRIVAL OF GEN. FREMONT.

Major Gen. Fremont arrived here this evening. He will appear before the Congressional committee on Monday, and give in his testimony relative to his conduct of the department which he commanded in Missouri.

ARRIVAL OF GEN. STONE.

Gen. Stone is in town.

CONDITION OF GEN. MARCY.

Gen. Marcy is still gaining rapidly.

GEN. FITZ JOHN PORTER RETURNED FROM ANNAPOLIS THIS EVENING.

Dr. Shippen, of Philadelphia, who has charge of the hospital in General McClellan's division, where the wounded at the Dranesville battle are being taken care of, has been obliged, on account of his excessive labors, to relinquish his post for a few days to attend the respite he requires. Dr. Green, Surgeon of the Seventh Pennsylvania, has been ordered to the hospital in his absence. There are now only eight of the Dranesville wounded in the hospital, and only one of these is expected to die of his wounds. The other wounded have all been discharged.

ANOTHER SOLDIER KILLED BY THE CARELESS USE OF FIREARMS.

To-day another instance occurred of a soldier being killed through the careless use of firearms. The victim was James McKee, private in Company I, First Pennsylvania Cavalry. A private, having on a false alarm, protruded his head into a tent where several soldiers were sitting, when one of the latter, supposing he was frightened, took out his revolver and pointed it in the direction of the intruder. By one of those fatalities that often follow upon the heels of reckless carelessness, a barrel of the revolver exploded, the bullet just grazing the head of the naked soldier and hitting McKee, who happened to be passing, in the left temple, and killing him instantly.

STILL ANOTHER SOLDIER ACCIDENTALLY SHOT.

Private Peter Jager, of Company E, Sixty-third New York regiment, was accidentally shot last evening when the regiment was returning from picket duty. Private Quilley, of the same company, stumbled into a post hole near the camp ground, when his musket went off, killing Jager and wounding Gustav Blum of the same company. Jager was twenty-three years of age, and a native of Germany.

THE LANE AND JENKINS LAND CLAIM.

The report that the Secretary of the Interior has settled in favor of General Lane's land claim decided by the Court in Kansas in favor of Gains Jenkins, who was shot dead by Lane—since Senator, now a general in the army—has created a feeling of astonishment on the part of legal gentlemen here who know all the facts. The case will probably not be allowed to rest where it is.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE PRINTING BUREAU.

Great complaint is made in the military department of the government against the printing establishment, on account of the dilatory manner in which business is done there. The orders in cases of court martials, and the general and special orders of the army, are unnecessarily delayed, to the great detriment of the service and the public interest.

ON NEW YEAR'S DAY THE LADY OF BARON STOCKEL.

The Russian Minister, presented to him a fine heir, and to the Emperor a new subject. The event has elicited many congratulations. Mrs. Stockel is an American, nee Miss Howard, of Massachusetts. She has thus added a new link to the bond of amity existing between the two nations.

SWORD PRESENTATION.

The staff officers of General Grant's brigade presented to him last night a splendid sword and scabbard.

PROMOTION.

Dr. Meigs, Cap. Assistant Surgeon of the Forty-third New York Volunteers, was to-day promoted to Surgeon, vice Dr. J. N. Thompson, resigned.

News from the State Capital.

THE APPROACHING SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE—THE CONTEST FOR THE SPEAKERSHIP—CALL FOR A UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ALBANY, Jan. 4, 1862.

The Speaker's question is the all-absorbing topic of the day. Only about half of the members have arrived, and no definite conclusion can be arrived at as to the final result. The several aspirants have been here since yesterday attending to their own claims. Raymond is at the Albany, and is drawing around him the Weed politicians, and endeavoring to convince them that he has no connection with Greeley, Alford and Hubbard are also on hand. The contest has already become somewhat acrid. Bates are freely offered, with no taking, that Raymond will not be the Speaker. As matters stand to-night the contest is between Alford and Hubbard.

A call has been issued for a Union caucus of all in favor of sustaining the policy of President Lincoln's to meet on Monday evening in the Assembly Chamber. This has frustrated the plans of the straight republicans, who were preparing to meet at the same place, and appears to be specially opposed by the friends of Raymond.

An effort is being made to prevent the republicans from taking part in the caucus. What the result will be no one can tell until more of the members reach here.

The river at this place is frozen over and teams are crossing without the least trouble.

Messrs. Mason and Sidell Expected at Halifax.

HALIFAX, Jan. 4, 1862.

Messrs. Mason and Sidell, the rebel commissioners to France and England, are hourly expected here in the British gunboat *Binaldo*.

Additional News from Europe.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP MAGDALENE AT HALIFAX.

HALIFAX, Jan. 4, 1862.

The steamship *Magdalen*, from Southampton on Saturday, the 21st of December, arrived at this port last Friday night.

The *Magdalen* has one thousand troops for Canada. The *Magdalen*'s news is anticipated by the Admiralty.

It was reported on the London Stock Exchange that the legal authorities at Washington had pronounced against the capture of Messrs. Mason and Sidell, and that they were on their way to England.

Statements from the Paris *Patriote* of the number of French men-of-war of New York attracted attention, and was regarded with much satisfaction on the London 'Change.

The Rumored Loss of the Parana.

MONTEVIEJO, Jan. 4, 1862.

Nothing has been heard here or at any other telegraph station on the lower St. Lawrence of the loss of the *Parana*, rumored from Halifax, and no belief is placed in it. She was not expected to come to St. Lawrence.

HALIFAX, Jan. 4, 1862.

There is no news as yet of the steamship *Parana*; but all apprehensions in regard to her safety have subsided, from the fact that she did not leave Southampton until the 26th of December.

Michigan United States Senatorial Nomination.

DETROIT, Mich., Jan. 4, 1862.

In the republican caucus at Lansing last night, Jacob M. Howard was unanimously nominated for United States Senator, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Senator Bingham.

Movements of Colonel Mulligan.

URICA, Jan. 4, 1862.

Colonel Mulligan reached this city at half past one o'clock this morning, and was welcomed to his native city by the city authorities, the military and an immense concourse of people. He speaks in the City Hall to-night.

NOTICES OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

A TREATISE ON ORDINANCE AND NAVAL GOVERNMENT.

Compiled and arranged as a Text Book for the United States Military Academy by Lieutenant Edward Simpson, United States Navy. Van Nostrand.

A Large and highly respectable meeting of British residents was held at the office of the British Consulate, at two o'clock yesterday afternoon, for the purpose of expressing sentiments of sympathy in relation to the recent death of Prince Albert, the consort of Queen Victoria.

The Death of Prince Albert—Condolence.

Meeting of British Residents of New York—Address of Robert Russell, Esq., and an Address to Queen Victoria, &c.

A large and highly respectable meeting of British residents was held at the office of the British Consulate, at two o'clock yesterday afternoon, for the purpose of expressing sentiments of sympathy in relation to the recent death of Prince Albert, the consort of Queen Victoria. The meeting was called by an advertisement published in the daily papers by Mr. Archibald, the British Consul, and was entirely composed of merchants and men of wealth in our metropolis hailing from British soil.

Mr. Russell, correspondent of the London *Times*, was present upon the occasion, but did not take part in the proceedings.

After some preliminary preparations, on motion of Mr. Henry Evans, E. M. Archibald, Esq., the British Consul, was called to the chair, which position he at once accepted.

Mr. Archibald, on taking the chair, thanked the meeting for the honor which they had conferred upon him, and continued as follows:—Gentlemen, the event which has caused our assembling here to-day is truly a lamentable one. The Prince Consort of our most gracious Majesty the Queen has been removed from among us, and this meeting is called for the purpose of expressing condolence with the irretrievable loss which she has sustained. In the home of the poor the name of Prince Albert will be long treasured. He merited your respect and admiration, for he was truly a good Prince. It is sufficient, however, for us to know that he was the husband of our present Queen. In his death we are called upon to mourn the death of an excellent prince and husband. I would have called attention to the death of the Prince sooner than the present day, but that it was yesterday I received the official announcement of his demise. The Consul then read the official document from the British government announcing the Prince's death. At this stage of the proceedings Mr. Robert Gordon was appointed Secretary of the meeting.

Mr. HENRY EVANS, President of the St. George's Society of this city, stated that in consequence of the illness of the Prince Consort, he had written for him to-day further remarks in reference to the matter. He would therefore offer the following resolution:—

Resolved, That we have heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the sudden and unexpected death of our most gracious Majesty the Queen's Consort, and desire to express our sympathy and condolence with her Majesty under this most affecting bereavement as well as national calamity. The resolution was immediately carried by acclamation.

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